

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Berthoud Area Transportation System (BATS) Microtransit Pilot Program in fiscal year 2024.

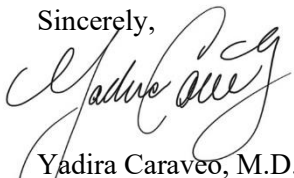
The entity to receive funding for this project is the Town of Berthoud, located at 807 Mountain Ave, Berthoud, CO 80513. The funding would be used to develop a one year microtransit pilot program for the Town of Berthoud. Through a turnkey partnership with a microtransit service provider, this project will improve the accessibility, convenience, and user experience of transit riders in Berthoud. The project will address first-and-last mile trips and mode shift to alleviate traffic congestion. It will provide connections to regional transit services offered by TransFort and the Colorado Department of Transportation.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because as Berthoud's population continues to grow and change, there is a need to modernize public transit and make transit more accessible, reliable, and convenient for residents. Currently, BATS operates weekdays between 8 AM and 4 PM. Riders must call before 4 PM at least one business day before the ride is needed. These limited operating hours and single method of trip booking severely limit the service's availability and accessibility for community members, resulting in only a handful of community members using this community resource. Berthoud does not have the technical expertise to redesign, optimize, or deliver tech-enabled transportation; however, in partnership with a microtransit service provider, Berthoud's operations would be modernized and expanded using real-time, on-the-ground information. Through initial coordination with microtransit service providers, the average wait time (time between when a trip is requested/booked and the pickup time) would be reduced from 12 hours (given the required call-ahead time) to 8 to 14 minutes. Modernizing and expanding Berthoud's service will change the types of trips being completed and increase the total number of trips.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by chapter 53 of title 49 of the United States Code.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Yadira Caraveo, M.D.
Member of Congress